

Re-open plan  
submitted  
to state

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Public Schools have submitted its re-open plan to the state for consideration. Receiver/Superintendent Dr. Alberto Vazquez Mato addressed the school community on the submission:

We have submitted Holyoke’s preliminary return-to-school plan to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). In this letter, I am sharing with you what we know to be true today, but we must recognize that the current environment can change. We will need to continually review and adapt our plan, depending on health, safety and educational guidance and based on input from

PLAN, 9

Study shows  
effects of  
Hurricane Maria

HOLYOKE – Hurricane Maria was a deadly category 5 Hurricane that devastated the Caribbean on September 20, 2017, especially the island of Puerto Rico where it’s destructive force is viewed as the worst natural disaster in recorded history to strike the island.

The devastating consequences were thousands of deaths and injuries on people, and catastrophic infrastructural damage. It is estimated that around 150,000 people had to flee and seek refuge outside of the island.

STUDY, 9

Mall hours  
return to normal

HOLYOKE – Effective Monday, Aug. 3, Holyoke Mall’s operating hours will be 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Sunday hours will remain the same at 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Please note that some stores and restaurants may have different operating hours. Guests are encouraged to visit holyokemall.com for a listing of individual store and restaurant hours prior to visiting the shopping center.

MALL, 9

Class of 2020 braves COVID,  
pouring rain at commencement

By Shelby Macri  
smacri@turley.com

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke High School Graduation Ceremony included both the Dean Campus and North Campus students and took place at the Roberts Field Sports Complex on Sunday Aug. 2. Having the ceremony at the traditional location was important to the Graduation class, so they waited until they were available to have the ceremony there.

The ceremony allowed one parent to sign in and view from the sideline bleachers, while a separate screen was set up in the parking lot to broadcast the ceremony to parents and others in attendance. The ceremony was recorded and broadcasted through YouTube, for those who wanted to watch but could not make it to the high school. People were also gathered at the fences at the edge of the field to watch from afar.

The ceremony included the Executive Principal, Dr. Stephen Mahoney, Receiver/Superintendents Dr. Stephen Zrike and Dr. Alberto Vazquez Matos, Mayor Alex Morse, and School Committee Vice Chair Mildred Lefebvre. They were in charge of presenting the diplomas to the Class of 2020,



Graduates braved the pouring rain late in the ceremony. See more photos on page 2.

Photos by Shelby Macri

and were the only ones on the stage with the exception of students making speeches. As the Class Presidents of both campus’ made their speeches, rain started to drive on the open field. Though Dr. Mahoney mentioned that the rain would not deter the ceremony, they would carry on regardless. A show of resilience to the class of 2020, which was a common theme for the class.

The North Campus Valedictorian, Jack Shea also spoke of the resilience of the Class of 2020.

“Now the dictionary defines superlative as: of the highest kind, quality, or order; surpassing all else, or others; supreme. I’d define it as the Class of 2020. This may be directly ripped from The Office, but it definitely holds true. The Holyoke High

Class of 2020 is undoubtedly the supreme class of Holyoke High; The Empire Strikes Back of high school years, an act impossible to follow or repeat, sorry 2021. Why though? Resilience.” Shea said. “2020 is superlative because of its perseverance and ability to adapt to anything the world has thrown its way. Not only

See CLASS OF 2020, page 9

STORM RIPS THROUGH CITY



A downed tree in Holyoke was just a little bit of the damage that occurred in the city from Storm Isaias. The storm left thousands of people without power as well as some road blockages, downed trees, and damage to homes and some cars.

Submitted photo

Additional dates confirmed  
for coronavirus testing

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – Following a massive amount of interest in free COVID-19 testing, the commonwealth of Massachusetts partnered with the town of Agawam to provide three more dates.

Tapestry Health Care was the administering firm for the first set of tests held on Aug. 5 and 6. Now, Transformative Health Care will be coming to town on Friday, Aug. 7, Saturday, Aug. 8, and Friday, Aug. 14.

They will have seven hours on each date available for testing due to the massive demand for appointments. These will be “drive-thru” testing and like the first set of testing dates, they are open to all residents of Massachusetts and you need not have any COVID-19 symptoms to get a test. Tests will also be free

of charge. No appointments will be needed for these additional dates.

Although, Agawam currently has very few positive cases, this program will encourage the testing of asymptomatic individuals in our communities and provide a valuable service to travelers and college students who may need to be tested.

According to a press release from the Agawam Health Department, a designated phone line for the testing agency that will be present on the additional dates has been set up to answer questions. Please call 617-745-2182. The testing location will once again be Agawam Junior High School, located 1305 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills. The hours of testing will be 12 noon to 7 p.m. on each of the dates.



# In The News



The Class of 2020 for the Dean Campus and North Campus.



Graduates walk onto the field for their long awaited graduation ceremony. Photos by Shelby Marci



Principal Dr. Stephen Mahoney welcomes the audience to the graduation.



Former Receiver/Superintendent Dr. Stephen Zrike addressees the class.



Holyoke North Campus Class President, Melina Garcia addresses her class.



Jorge Gonzalez, the Dean Campus Valedictorian makes his speech.



John Shea, the North Campus Valedictorian makes his speech.



Melina Garcia, the North Campus Class President receives her diploma.



Aiden Consedine waves after receiving his diploma.



Libardo Perez shows his diploma off.



Freny Ramon Maseira frames her diploma.



Alexandra Ramos holds her diploma up high.



David Schipper holds his diploma.



Graduates continue to make their way off the platform.

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# Latino scholarships awarded to area students

HOLYOKE – The Latino Scholarship Fund of Western Massachusetts will be hosted a virtual celebration on Tuesday, August 4 to honor this year’s 12 scholarship recipients, along with the recipients of the Carlos Vega Community Champion Award and the Antonia Pantoja Award for their Distinguished Achievement. The media is invited to attend this celebration, although the event is closed to the public. For the press to obtain the zoom link, please contact Isabel Espinal: isabel.espinal@gmail.com. The video with the celebration will be launched publicly on Tuesday, Aug. 11 via Facebook live. This video will also live on the organization’s website.

“The event honors those who have inspired the Latinx community, and those who will become our future leaders,” notes Board President Myriam Quiñones. The Carlos Vega Community Champion Award celebrates a local individual whose actions

have benefited the Latino community in the region, while the Antonia Pantoja Award for Distinguished Achievement is given to someone who has achieved high academic success through research, education, art, policy, and publication.

The 12 winners of the 2020 Latino Scholarships are:

Melody Alcántara, Chicopee Comprehensive High School  
Joalis Ayala, Holyoke High School  
Amy Bonilla, Holyoke High School  
Johan Cruz Hernández, Northfield Mount Hermon School  
Adaris Dominicci Feliciano, Holyoke High School  
Jhonniel Ferández, Springfield High School of Science and Technology  
Amelia Flores, Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School  
Armando Fontan, Holyoke High School

Keiry Heath, Holyoke High School  
Charlotte Kazalski, Gateway Regional High School  
Gianna Peart, Springfield Central High School  
Karina Rosado, Springfield Renaissance High School  
The winner of the Carlos Vega Community Champion Award is Roberto Vicente, currently the ELL teacher at Kelly Elementary school in Holyoke.

The winner of the Antonia Pantoja Award for Distinguished Achievement is Professor Raúl D. Gutiérrez, Foreign Language Coordinator at Holyoke Community College.

Due to the Coronavirus crisis, the Latino Scholarship Fund had cancelled its annual banquet dinner scheduled in May 2020. Quiñones states, “We are so grateful for the constant and unwavering support of our friends and community members.

Therefore, we are looking forward to coming back physically to celebrate our 30th anniversary next year. The virtual event cannot replace the dinner but we hope it helps to bring the Latinx community together in celebration of our many educational successes and our collective resilience.”

The Latino Scholarship Fund is dedicated to encouraging Latino academic achievement by awarding scholarships for students to pursue higher education. The LSF has been awarding college scholarships to Latino students in Holyoke and surrounding communities in Western Massachusetts for 30 years. Quiñones encourages residents of the area and beyond to learn more about the Latino Scholarship Fund of Western Massachusetts and to make a donation by visiting the website at <https://www.latinoscholarshipwesternmass.org/>

# Area businesses receive small business funding

HOLYOKE – Congressman Richard E. Neal recently joined local business leaders at The Log Cabin in Holyoke to celebrate the success of the U.S. Small Business Administration’s (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) across the First Congressional District of Massachusetts.

Newly released information from the SBA outlines that the First District of Massachusetts received 10,460 loans totaling \$1,177,312,235. The data shows that businesses of all types benefited from this important program, including women-owned, veteran-owned, and minority-owned businesses.

“The PPP has been an amazing success for small businesses across the country and especially here in western and central Massachusetts,” said Congressman Neal. “This unprecedented program, made possible through the passage of the CARES Act, has saved businesses, it’s saved good jobs, and it’s saved beloved fixtures in our communities that we all value and want to be sure survive the COVID-19 recession, including all those

who joined us today.”

“During the COVID-19 crisis, the Paycheck Protection Program has been a lifeline for my business and employees. Without the SBA loan, we would not be here in Holyoke operating today. I appreciate the work of Congressman Neal that helped make this important federal assistance available,” said Peter Rosskothén, owner of the Log Cabin and Delaney House.

“The Bean Restaurant Group is extremely grateful to Congressman Neal and his team for leading the charge to ensure that businesses in western Massachusetts received these funds and we are especially grateful that all 14 of our restaurants received funding,” said Andy Yee, Principal Managing Partner of Bean Restaurant Group. “Immediately upon receiving these funds we were able to pay rent and utilities. As time went on and the state was allowed to re-open, we were able to hire employees back incrementally. Thanks to the partnerships we have with banks, landlords, and elected officials, including Congressman Neal, we are now

open for business.”

Susan Beaudry, Executive Director of the Springfield Symphony Orchestra said, “The Springfield Symphony Orchestra benefited greatly by receiving PPP funds. These funds combined with the financial commitment of our Board, allowed us to maintain our staff for several months longer than we would have. It also allowed us to switch our fundraising focus creating the Musicians Relief Fund to help offset the lost work for our musicians. Without this important funding the SSO would not have had the resources to shift gears from concert production in front of a seated audience to our virtual Home Gown series, which has allows us to stay engaged with our audience and community, as well as offer opportunity for our musicians to play.”

“When the pandemic first hit, none of us knew what to expect,” said Don Pion, Dealer Principle of Bob Pion Buick GMC. “Our service and parts operation were deemed essential businesses and continued to operate but at greatly reduced volume. We were mandated to close our show-

room, virtually eliminating our sales and leasing departments. We saw reductions of 40% in our overall revenue. The PPP loans were a lifeline to get us through the worst of the crisis. It helped us keep our essential workers employed and allowed us to operate a scaled back sales and leasing operation remotely. Now that we’ve been allowed to reopen our showroom we’ve brought back nearly all of our staff. When times are the darkest it’s nice to know that Congressman Neal is there for us. He’s always accessible and sensitive to the needs of his district. Congressman Neal has always been there for us. When push comes to shove, Richie Neal is the guy I want representing me.”

In addition to these businesses, Sister Miriam Najimy, Daughters of the Heart of Mary, attended the event as a representative of the Marian Center in Holyoke. Sr. Najimy recounted how Congressman Neal’s staff assisted the nursing home – that caters specifically to nuns – to obtain a PPP loan. With this funding they were able to keep their staff employed to ensure that the nuns received the care they required.

# Local students receive bachelor’s degrees from UMass Amherst

AMHERST – Approximately 6,600 students received bachelor’s degrees in over 100 majors at the University of Massachusetts Amherst as the university held a virtual commencement celebration for the Class of 2020 on May 8. Below is a list of local students from Holyoke who earned a degree.

Alexis Elizabeth Alicea, Samuel R. Allen, Elvin Bruno, James Curtin, Bryan

A Dec, Ana Elena Diaz Moore, Jordan Doucette, Wendy M. Fox, Summer Jade Kaepfel, Robert Thomas Kass, John Keane, Raegan Barrett Loughrey, Jared Allen McPherson, Vraj Dixitkumar Patel, Emma Mary Price, Melissa Marie Rivera, Nickolas Stephen Shenan, Chloe Soto, Kiara Quashawna Spells, Emily Stone Pichette Walker, Jessica L. Way, Joshua O’Leary Wielgosz, Nathan Yee.

# RWU announces spring 2020 Dean’s List

BRISTOL, RI – Select students have been named to the Spring 2020 Dean’s List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I. Full-time students who complete 12 or more credits

per semester and earn a GPA of 3.4 or higher are placed on the Dean’s List that semester. Those making the list include Kayley Dineen, Madelyn Duggan, and Lauren Ryan of Holyoke.

# Joshua Stark wins social media contest

HOLYOKE - The winner of the Barnes and Noble Gift Card for Slow the Spread of COVID-19 social media challenge is Joshua Anthony Stark Jr., rising 2nd-grader at Metcalf School. Thank you for sharing ways you are helping to slow the spread of COVID-19 and thank you to everyone who participated!

If you didn’t get a chance to participate, it’s not too late. Share a photo of you, your family, or you and a friend

(socially distanced, of course!) wearing your mask, using hand sanitizer, washing your hands, or standing six feet apart, and you’ll have a chance to win a gift card to Barnes and Noble.

Email photos to [webmanager@hps.holyoke.ma.us](mailto:webmanager@hps.holyoke.ma.us) and include your name, school, and grade. We will be sharing the photos on HPS social media to highlight the importance of slowing the spread of COVID-19.



# HCU awards 2020 scholarship

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Credit Union (HCU) Board of Directors would like to announce the winners of the 2020 Holyoke Credit Union Scholarship.

Dennis Moran, Thomas Paquin and Michael Ghazil, members of the HCU Board of Directors, and members of the Scholarship Committee, have been given the task of choosing the recipients of the scholarships. This year, from a field of 33 applicants, Michael Lukasiewicz, Emma Gale and Kaleb Hogan were chosen.

Each recipient received \$500 to put toward his/her college expenses.

Michael Lukasiewicz, son of Kevin and Michelle Lukasiewicz of Holyoke, is a recent graduate of Holyoke High School North Campus. He is planning

to attend Springfield College in the fall, where he plans to major in Elementary Education, with a concentration in Special Education. Michael is a member of the National Honor Society and the National Society of High School Students. He was the captain of the Ski Team and a member of the Business Club. His extracurricular activities include the Football Mentoring Program, working as the Assistant Manager of Margaret’s Pantry and the Adaptive PE Skating Program. While still in high school, Michael also has been an intern at the Stefancik Elementary School in Chicopee where he helped tutor students with special needs.



Guest Column

# Can I get a widow's benefit if I am on disability?

By Russell Gloor  
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: I was recently approved for my Social Security disability benefits. Will I still be able to get my widow's benefits when I turn 60, which is right around the corner? Or do I lose those because I am disabled? Signed: An Uncertain Widow

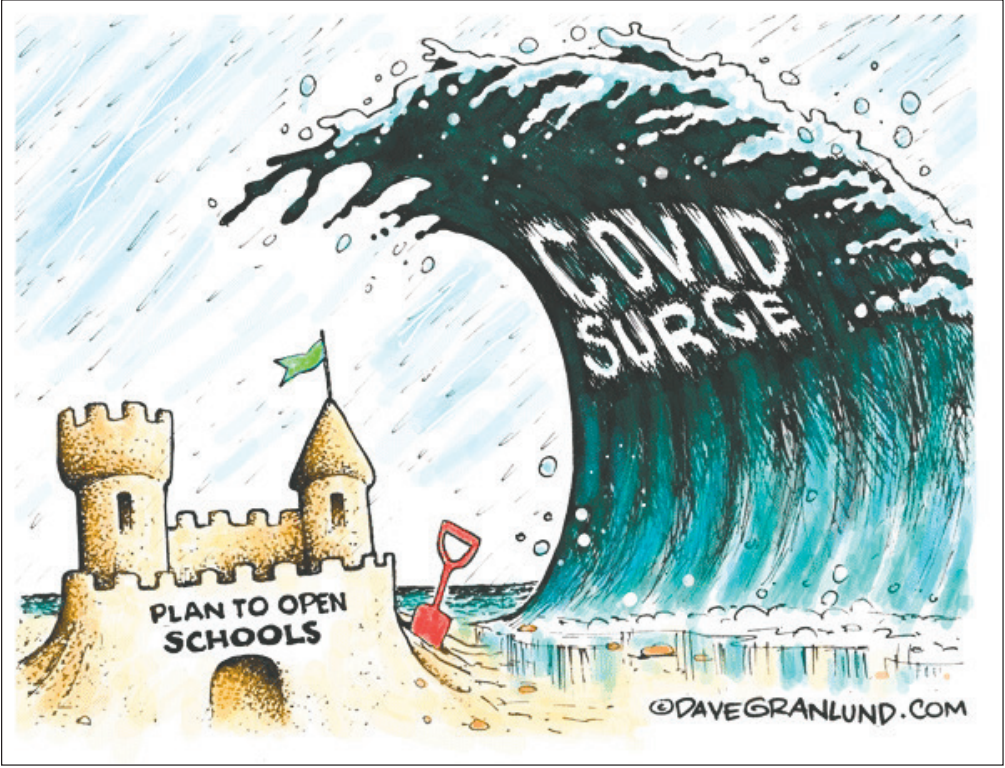
Dear Uncertain Widow: You will not lose your survivor (widow's) benefits because you are now collecting Social Security Disability Insurance benefits. You can get the survivor benefit if it is more than your SSDI benefit and provided that you did not remarry before age 60 (and remain married). If you are entitled to and claim a survivor benefit while on SSDI, it will come as a separate supplemental payment which, along with your SSDI benefit, equals the amount you are due as a widow.

If you are now on SSDI you can actually take your survivor benefit before age 60 because survivor benefits can be taken as early as age 50 if you are disabled. But claimed at age 60 or earlier, the survivor benefit will be reduced by 28.5% from what it would be if you wait until your full retirement age (FRA) of 67 to claim it. If you are collecting both SSDI and the survivor supplement when you reach your full retirement age, it will automatically convert to one payment equal to what you're entitled to as a survivor (SSDI benefits stop at full retirement age).

It would be prudent for you to evaluate whether you should continue with your SSDI benefits only for a while and allow your survivor benefit to grow to a higher amount. At age 67, your survivor benefit as a widow will be 100% of the amount your deceased husband was receiving, or entitled to receive, at his death. But claiming it before your full retirement age will mean it will be cut by 4.75% for each year earlier than your FRA that you claim it. You can find out your full survivor benefit amount by contacting Social Security.

Your survivor benefit will reach maximum at your full retirement age, and it does not expire so you can delay up to age 67 to claim if you wish (to get the maximum amount as a widow). But if your financial situation is such that you need the reduced survivor benefit earlier, and your benefit as a widow is more than your SSDI benefit, you can claim it at any time. Survivor benefits must be applied for directly with the Social Security Administration, which you can reach by phone at 1.800.772.1213, or at your local office (find the phone number for your local office at [www.ssa.gov/locator](http://www.ssa.gov/locator)). Note that all Social Security offices are temporarily closed to in-person visits by the public, so telephone is your only current option to apply for your survivor benefit, until after the pandemic

See BENEFIT page 5

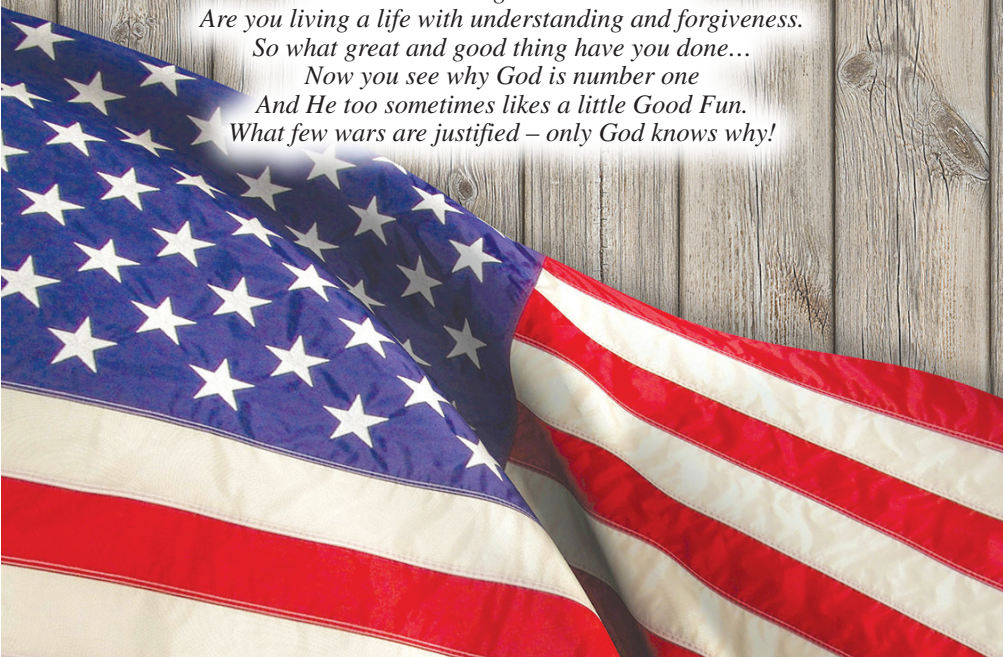


Poetry Corner

## The Flag of America

By Thomas J. Kennedy

*The flag of America – red, white, blue,  
And Our Country blessed – God loves you.  
The red stands for the blood sacrificed on foreign shores.  
The white stands for purity, honesty – Goodness in morality more.  
The blue stands for truth that we will put God # 1,  
And will honor and obey the laws of our country in justice and dignity.  
Stand-Salute your flag... Our Country and you deserve.  
Kneel on both knees, praying in gratitude.  
You haven't fought hand to hand – Life and suffering death.  
Our flag should be respected and free,  
That's when we define "Our Liberty,"  
Our flag disrespect... Who gives you that right  
To me, Our flag should not be worn.  
That is an insult grave and scorn...  
Are you living a life with understanding and forgiveness.  
So what great and good thing have you done...  
Now you see why God is number one  
And He too sometimes likes a little Good Fun.  
What few wars are justified – only God knows why!*



**the** HOLYOKE **Sun**

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**Name,**  
story.

## Letters to the Editor Policy

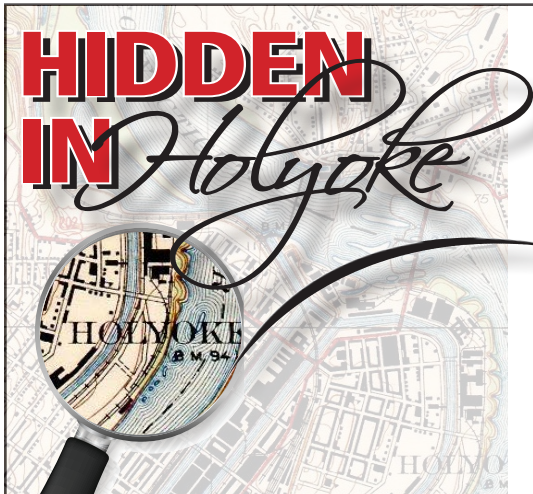
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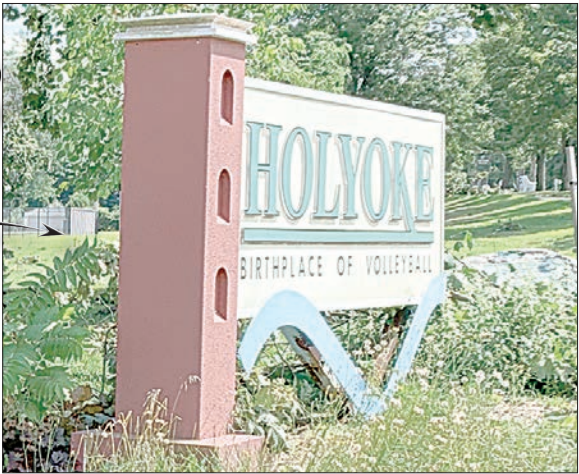
Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

Please email (preferred) letters to [thesun@turley.com](mailto:thesun@turley.com). Mailed letters can be sent to The Sun, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.



Each week, The Holyoke Sun will feature a photo of a distinctive place, landmark, sculpture, sign or other recognizable object located somewhere in the city.

Think you know what or where it is? Readers are encouraged to submit their guesses to "Hidden in Holyoke" via email to [TheSun@Turley.com](mailto:TheSun@Turley.com). In order to qualify for the weekly contest, entries must be received by Wednesday at noon for inclusion into Friday's edition. Please include your full name with your guess in an email to [TheSun@turley.com](mailto:TheSun@turley.com). If more than one correct answer is received, the names of all those who submitted guesses will be listed. For more information, contact The Holyoke Sun at 413-283-8398.



Last week's "Hidden in Holyoke" was the entrance to Macy's at the Holyoke Mall.



# All of us need to help revitalize our democracy

By Lee H. Hamilton  
Guest columnist

Amid all the troubles occupying our attention, one of the more worrisome is also one of the least visible. It is the loss of public faith in the effectiveness of our representative democracy.

While most state and local governments, and certain federal agencies, have maintained public support during the pandemic, concern over our system as a whole is palpable: that it has trouble responding to the country's needs, is resistant to reform as society evolves, and continues to perpetuate inequality, social immobility, and basic unfairness when it comes to creating more opportunity, liberty and justice for all.

These deficiencies corrode our unity and effectiveness as a nation. Americans increasingly divide themselves into different, often warring, political and cultural camps. Instead of working to create one out of many, they sort themselves into like-minded communities. They narrow, rather than expand, their sources of news and information, seeking those that reinforce their views. These days, we often live in different worlds from one another.

Politicians have played a signifi-

cant role in this. Some are bent on stoking division. Many play to their parties' bases. And some, at both the state and federal level, do their best to narrow the public support on which government rests by making it difficult for everyone who's entitled to vote to cast an actual ballot.

To be sure, there are plenty of efforts in many communities to work against these trends, to expand participation and build connections, and to decrease division. Still, the challenge we face as a nation is to revitalize our democracy and its institutions. We need to strengthen representative democracy by restoring the effectiveness of government, rebuild Congress as a functional, co-equal branch of the federal government, and restore confidence in our institutions, public and private.

How do we do this? Calls for greater public participation and involvement are on target, but not enough. While I'm always encouraged by political leaders who seek to involve the public and by civic groups that try to enhance and encourage citizen participation, I believe we're at the point where we need to repair our frayed institutions and push back against the forces that divide us.

We are, after all, the United States.

Our name expresses an ideal. So, for that matter, does the course of our history, which over time has trended toward expanding inclusivity and opportunity for all. One place to start is to appreciate our history and take inspiration from that history: to recognize where we've fallen short, but also to highlight the remarkable progress we've made and the efforts of committed citizens that made it possible.

We also need to recognize that divisiveness weakens us, and that efforts to reknit American society are now urgently important.

To that end, proposals for a year of national service strike me as particularly welcome. This would be expensive but focusing young Americans on a year of shared endeavor with others from vastly different backgrounds, in the military, in AmeriCorps, in internships or public-service opportunities, would help meet many needs and be well worth the expense.

We also need to up our game as ordinary citizens and beat back the drivers of divisiveness and polarization as we work to strengthen our communities.

Among other things, this means making an effort to seek out alternative points of view in the media and paying

attention to objective, factual reporting. It means supporting measures that bring us together, such as bringing young people from all backgrounds and perspectives to work side by side in projects for the public good. And it means being thoughtful about our engagement: voting for candidates focused on pulling us together and working for the common good and putting our time and effort into causes that bring us together rather than pull us apart.

In short, we must decide what we can do in the voting booth and in our own neighborhoods and communities to revitalize our representative democracy. Our aim is to make our communities and our country better places to live: more creative, inclusive, and welcoming.

The answer lies not in the stars, but with all of us.

*Lee Hamilton is a senior advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.*

## BENEFIT, from page 4

closure is lifted.

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*Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*

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# With craft fairs canceled, creators go online

By Dalton Zbierski  
Staff Writer

REGION – In similar fashion to most every gathering, craft fairs across the state are being cancelled or postponed because of COVID-19. To prevent losses and ensure that all crafters are able to sell their products, a local woman has created a potential solution.

Donalyn Gross, of Longmeadow, created the Western Massachusetts Crafters Directory to link clients with the favorite crafters this summer and fall. The directory currently lists the contact information for more than 200 crafters and is steadily growing.

“Over the years, I collected everybody’s business cards and told them to send me a list of all the fairs they know. Now, I put them together, made a list and sent it out to everybody,” said Gross.

Crafters must pay an annual fee of \$10 to be added to the directory, and public access is entirely free. Gross, an avid craft fair participant for the past two decades, sells maple pecan and maple walnut syrup toppings and typically attends a dozen craft fairs each autumn.

From September to December, traditional weekend craft fairs are prevalent all throughout the region. This fall, the tradition will likely be broken, but Gross is cautiously optimistic that her directory will make a difference.

“This year with the virus, I’m nervous about what will happen with the fall fairs. It’s our busy season,” she said. “What happens if there aren’t any fairs? We want people to be able to get a copy of this directory and say, ‘Oh, here’s that person that I’ve bought stuff from before, and here’s the contact information.’ They can contact the crafters directly.”

Gross noted that many crafters are small business owners and rely on the income gained during craft fairs each fall. She also pointed out that many of the products have already been created and are ready for sale.

“When you’re stuck in the house during the pandemic, what are you going to do? You’re going to make more stuff,” said Gross. “There are hundreds of people who do their Christmas shopping and holiday shopping at these fairs. We all have tons and tons of merchandise. I have 14 cases of jars in my living room right now.”

Emphasizing that crafters do not want to lose their customers, Gross reiterated that items can be picked up as soon as tomorrow. In addition to the crafters’ contact information and locations, her directory lists product descriptions and times of availability.

“I want to get this out to the public as much as I can. I’m telling people, ‘Email me, and I will send it to you right away.’ For crafters who want to get on the list, email me, and I’ll give you the information,” she said.

While the directory is not yet online, Gross will be receptive to assistance in the endeavor. She admits



Donalyn Gross, of Longmeadow, created the Western Massachusetts Crafters Directory to link clients with the favorite crafters this summer and fall. Pictured here are samples of her pecan and maple walnut syrup toppings.

Courtesy photo

that she is not a computer person but does realize the benefits of a potential website and will accept the help of someone willing to give it. Gross can be contacted at Goodendings@hotmail.com.

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# SPORTS

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## TMC votes to keep wrestling sectional tournament

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – While the region is in for more delays of high school sports action, the MIAA's Tournament Management Committee is continuing its work to prepare for the 2021 fall season under what will be new tournament formats and divisional alignments.

In late February, a majority of the member schools in Massachusetts voted in favor of eliminating the sectional tournament and switching to a state-wide tournament that would include 32 teams as well as the possibility of playing to qualify if a school finishes with a record of .500 or above.

The move was very unpopular with many Western Massachusetts schools because of the vast diversity in the area, hence the use of the Walker Rating system that has been used to determine tournament seeds in many team sports such as soccer, basketball, field hockey, hockey, baseball, softball, and lacrosse. Central Mass. has also used to the system in some tournaments.

The ranking system was supposed to switch over MaxPreps for this fall and would have been used to rank the final Western Mass. tournaments. MaxPreps has a



Alignments for the new statewide tournaments were held at a TMC meeting on July 28.

proprietary ranking system not revealed publicly, but the MIAA has opted to delay its use for now.

However, now, it is unclear whether a fall season or a tournament will take place in the final year to have sectional tournaments through the MIAA.

The Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Association has discussed holding its own sectionals once the state switches over, but the COVID-19 pandemic has caused planning for that to be put on "the back burn-

er" according to PVIAC Board member David Stratton, athletic director at Agawam High School.

The PVIAC and other governing boards are looking at the current situation and working on just getting players back on fields safely and following proper safety protocols while the pandemic still exists.

Meanwhile, the TMC began the process of approving some alignments. The first, which was approved at a meeting last Tuesday, was the alignments for wrestling.



Wrestling will be one sport that will get to keep its sectional tournament sanctioned by the MIAA.

Wrestling has always been an individual sport with teams scoring points at the major meets. By a 10-2-1 vote, the TMC approved continuing with a sectional tournament as a means of qualifying for the state tournament. Wrestling will not be using a statewide tournament format initially and will remain with a sectional tournament in order for an individual grappler to get to the state tournament. The current format includes having a sectional, followed by a divisional state tournament, an all-state tourna-

ment, and then a New England Tournament.

A number of football committee members proposed new alignments for their sport. Their initial proposal was defeated 4-8-2 and will be revisited at another time.

The board also discussed how football would be handled with the delay in sports to Sept. 14. It would wipe out the first four weeks of football season. The issue will be discussed at the next meeting, set for Tuesday, Aug. 18 at 10 a.m. The meeting will be virtual.

## SLZATS SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED



Gabrielle Gauvin of Ludlow and Davianna Perez of Chicopee take the ceremonial opening tip-off from Roy LaPlante, organizer of the Szlats Memorial Tournament held in Chicopee each year. It has brought youth girls basketball teams from all over the area together for 26 years. It was one of the last sporting events held before the pandemic started and action was cut off after just one day. LaPlante said he hopes to have the tournament next year, but it will not be rescheduled this year. While money was refunded back to team because there was only a day of action, several teams donated their funds back to Szlats for the scholarships, which went to Averie Gatzounas, Julianna Beaulieu, Caroline Pycko, and Kass Guerrero, all Chicopee students.

Photo by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

## Buffone tops in street stock event

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Open-wheel ace Brian Robie (Sunapee, NH) won the NHSTRA Modified main event Saturday, August 1, at Monadnock Speedway, while second-generation star D.J. Shaw topped the Granite State Pro Stock Series 100-lapper.

Chris Buffone (Belchertown, MA) scored his first Street Stock victory Saturday, and Superman Aaron Fellows (Croydon, NH) stayed undefeated on the year by winning his seventh consecutive Late Model Sportsman feature race. Ed Gilman topped the night's Classic Lites 30-lapper.

Todd Patnode and Kimmy Rivet led the Mod Squad to the stripe as the night's 40-lap feature went green. Patnode, the speedway's reigning Modified champion, was gunning to turn a nightmare 2020 campaign around as the pandemic-shortened season hit its halfway mark.

With Patnode jumping all over the opening lead, Rivet and Cameron Houle, and then Keith Carzello, battled fast

and furious for the deuce spot while, charging hard from his row six starting slot, points leader and two-time winner Brian Robie was on the hunt.

Rocketing up to fourth on lap 18, Robie took third from Rivet on lap 22, second from Houle two go-rounds later, and pulled up to Patnode's bumper on lap 30. Taking the lead on his 32nd trip around the high banks, Robie then sped off to victory a half-dozen lengths ahead of Patnode.

Houle earned his first trophy finish of the summer in third, a whisker ahead of three-time winner Ben Byrne. Matt Kimball took the checkers in fifth. Byrne and Trevor Bleau, second and third in the points race, both lost valuable ground to Robie in the division's seventh event of the season.

In the GSPSS 100-lapper, second-generation Maine star D.J. Shaw pulled alongside fast-timer Devin O'Connell on lap 14, took sole possession

See RACING, page 8



# Organization promotes legalization of sports betting

CHICOPEE – Fair Play Massachusetts, an organization of dozens of bars and restaurants across the Commonwealth, has been advocating for over a year that those small, local businesses be able to offer sports betting to their patrons, [www.fairplaymass.com](http://www.fairplaymass.com). Fair Play states four specific advantages to allowing your neighborhood bar or restaurant to offer sports wagers: more revenue for the Commonwealth including our cities and towns, helping small businesses and their employees in the face of COVID, geographical fairness to MA citizens who would like to bet on sports and having a greater impact on the illegal black market. They are excited and fully support an amendment to allow them to safely and legally offer sports betting to their adult patrons.

State Representatives James O’Day and Brian Ashe have offered amendments (#365 and #496) to the Economic Development Bill that will allow for

an additional category of sports betting licenses for companies that will partner directly with Massachusetts retailers to offer sports betting via self serve kiosks or other digital/mobile platforms. This will allow in-person wagering in places other than the 3 casinos/ race tracks in the current language. The amendments also increase the excise tax from 15% to 50% resulting in more money back to the Commonwealth.

Fair Play has always contended that only allowing in person wagering in very few places is unfair to citizens who do not live near the geographically spread out casinos and conversely unfair to the small businesses which are close to the casinos as they now would have another competitive advantage in addition to gaming and exemption from happy hour regulations.

“Why should MGM be able to allow sports betting at their bars yet I cannot? Customers coming to my

place to watch the Sox, Pats, Bruins or Celtics are a big part of my business but if I can’t offer a way for people to bet in person and MGM is; then I will lose even more customers to them. I already have lost Keno players who now go there to drink for free and sit in front of a slot machine. I couldn’t offer free drinks if I wanted to. Why is a huge company from Vegas more important than small, local, neighborhood businesses like mine?” said Billy Stetson, owner of Rumbleseat Bar and Grill in Chicopee minutes away from MGM Springfield.

“These small, local businesses have been rocked by the pandemic and just non getting their feet back under them. Why not allow them to partner with a state licensed company to offer sports betting much like they do the lottery? Sports are a huge part of our culture and watching them at your favorite bar is as well; as the major sports leagues start to

get out there and play this will help our local businesses and at the same time bring in more revenue for the state and at a higher rate.

Also why should a person from Worcester who wants to put \$25 on the Pats have to drive an hour East or West to a casino to do so? Not everyone is comfortable betting through an app on their phone connected to their bank account. Also there are casual bettors that may be at a bar for a game and then decide to put a little bet on it to make it more interesting. Furthermore, NH and CT are poised to offer more options for in-person wagering on our borders.

It’s really a no brainer; especially now in the face of COVID. We help out our small, local businesses and we allow more safe and legal access throughout the state, all while bringing in more much needed state revenue. I really don’t see any reason to be against this.” stated spokesperson Ryan McCollum.

## Parks and Rec announces baseball clinics to take place in August

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Parks and Recreation Department in conjunction with the John Murphy Youth Baseball League will be conducting baseball clinics. To sign up for the clinic, please contact Coach Terry Murphy at [tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net](mailto:tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net).

Clinics will follow all of the board of health requirements regarding masks, spacing and cleaning of equipment. Players with their own bats and helmets or catcher’s gear are encouraged to bring to the clinic.

### Potential Baseball Clinics

### Schedule

All clinics to take place at Mackenzie Field

Free of charge for Holyoke residents, \$10 for non-residents

Wednesday, August 5: 5:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. (Age group 7-10)

Thursday, August 6: 5:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. (Age group 14-17)

Monday, August 10: 10 a.m. to 12 noon (age group 11-13)

Wednesday, August 12: 10 a.m. - 12 noon (age group 7-10)

Wednesday, August 12: 5:45 p.m. -

7:45 p.m. (age group 14-17)

Thursday, August 13: 5:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. (age group 11-13)

Monday, August 17: 10 a.m. - 12 noon (age group 7-10)

Wednesday, August 19: 10 a.m. - 12 noon (age group 11-13)

Wednesday, August 19: 5:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. (age group 14-17)

Thursday, August 20: 5:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. (age group 7-10)

Wednesday, August 26: 10 a.m. - 12 noon (age group 14-17)

Wednesday, August 26: 5:45 p.m. -

7:45 p.m. (age group 11-13)

Clinics will be run by former Holyoke Community College baseball coach Terry Murphy. He will be assisted by Bob Praticco, former Holyoke Catholic coach, Mike Afflitto, Smith Academy coach, and Mike Praticco, Amherst High School coach. Added to the coaching staff is Dioni Soriano Bello, a former player in Japan and Latin America. They will also be assisted by several former high school players as well. A trainer will also be on hand for each session.

## Francoeur wins Ouimet tournament

FRAMINGHAM – Chris Francoeur, 21, of Amesbury Golf & Country Club, won the Championship Division by making birdie on the final two holes to finish 10-under 205 over three days. Francoeur, a rising senior at the University of Rhode Island, edged runner-up Nick Maccario, 28, of Bradford Country Club, by one stroke, but both shot a 5-under 66 on the final day. Frank Vana, Jr., 57, of

Marlborough Country Club, won the Lowery (Senior) Division title by 10 strokes, shooting a three-day total of 6-under 209. It’s his second Lowery title in three years, and his seventh Ouimet title overall (5 Championship Div. & 2 Lowery Div.). Anne Walsh, 18, of The Country Club, won the Women’s Division for the first time with a three-day total of 3-under 212 to win by four strokes.

## Concerns cancel practice, race

THOMPSON, Conn. – Due to mounting concerns over the health and economic effects of COVID-19, Econn Motorsports announced today they are not moving forward with the traditional Bud 150 which had been scheduled for August 19th at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park. An open practice previously scheduled for August 5th has also been canceled. The recent outbreaks of COVID-19 cases associated with

professional sporting events was chief among the reasons for the decision.

“We had initially thought that the virus would be of minimal concern by now, but the numbers are still very concerning”, said Terry Eames of Econn Motorsports. “We remain committed to keeping oval track racing alive at Thompson and will continue to work with the Hoenig family about the possibility of events later in the year.”



Chris Buffone, a resident of Belchertown, wins the Street Stock event last weekend.

Submitted photos



Brian Robie topped the field in the modified race.



Aaron Fellow won another late model race.

### RACING, from page 7

of the top spot two laps later, and then never looked back as he easily scored his first series win of the summer.

Two-time 2020 series winner Angelo Belsito was second, with fellow two-time and current points leader Ray Christian III third. O’Connell finished his hard night’s work in fourth, while number two points man Joey Polewarczyk fell off the pace on lap 98 while running fourth.

In the Late Model Sportsman 25-lapper it was, who else, Aaron Fellows again, winning for the seventh straight week to stay undefeated this summer with a dozen overall wins against zero losses.

For the second week in a row, Cole Littlewood was the deuce man, watching Fellows inch past him as lap 21 went in

the books and then speed away. Number two point man Robert Hagar came home third, just ahead of teen speedster Camdyn Curtis.

Street Stock points leader Jaret Curtis spun in a cloud of tire smoke before lap one of the Streeter’s feature race had been completed, having to refire from 15th as his 25-lap journey began again.

Rookie Tim Wenzel led the first two go-rounds, with Belchertown Bullet Chris Buffone then taking over. While Buffone would lead the rest of the way to score his first Street Stock victory, the racing throughout the pack was action-packed and turbulent most of the way.

Chase Curtis claimed second early and tried high and low to find a way to the point while, riding at Curtis’s bumper and sometimes against it, Buffone’s uncle, Tommy O’Sullivan, completed the

nose-to-tail top three.

Jaret Curtis got up for fourth with one to go to stay just ahead of his twin brother in the points parade, while Wenzel’s strong run netted him the five spot. Buffone was the sixth different Street Stock feature winner this summer at the high-banked speedplant.

Ed Gilman wired the 30-lap Classic Lites feature, but while the Sandown, N.H. pilot had a fairly easy ride, the action behind him was fast and furious. Eric Skofield grabbed second on lap 13 and then chased Gilman the rest of the way, while four-time defending series champ Duane Skofield made a late-race charge to earn the third-place hardware.

Next Saturday, August 8, Monadnock Speedway returns to action with five exciting divisions of weekly racing series action, along with the visiting Granite State Legends and Pro-4

Modified series. For more information, please visit [www.monadnockspeedway.com](http://www.monadnockspeedway.com).

**STREET STOCKS:** Chris Buffone, Chase Curtis, Tommy O’Sullivan, Jaret Curtis, Tim Wenzel, Mike Hopkins, Hillary Renaud, Robbie Streeter, Jason Kozacka Kenny Thompson, Bryan Granger, Paul Barnard, Chris Riendeau, Nathan Wenzel, Ed Brehio.

**LATE MODEL SPORTSMAN:** Aaron Fellows, Cole Littlewood, Robert Hagar, Camdyn Curtis, Justin Littlewood, Hayden Scott, Willie Kuhn, Scott Beck, Nancy Muni-Ruot.

**NHSTRA MODIFIEDS:** Brian Robie, Todd Patnode, Cameron Houle, Ben Byrne, Matt Kimball, Keith Carzello, Trevor Bleau, Cory Plummer, Kim Rivet, Kevin Pittsinger, Solomon Brow, Zach Leone, Jerry Gomarlo, Eric Leclair, Russ Hersey, Brian Chapin.



PLAN, from page 1

all stakeholders. Our planning process continues to be guided by a vigilant monitoring of public health data in Massachusetts, and we are encouraged that indicators about the virus continue to move in the right direction. Our plan takes into consideration the educational and medical guidance released by DESE, the MA COVID-19 Command Center’s Medical Advisory Board (a group of physicians and other health experts), and many other members of the MA medical community. Importantly, it is also based on the input and feedback from local experts, including our staff, families, students, and community leaders.

First, we have modified the 2020-21 school calendar. Commissioner Riley and the Massachusetts Teachers Association worked together to ensure that every district in the Commonwealth has at least 10 days of professional learning for teachers prior to the first day of school for students. Our teachers and staff will use this additional time to be trained in the health and safety protocols and accountability systems required to keep our entire community safe. Additionally, they will receive training in blended learning, social emotional learning, and core content curriculum. All teachers will return to work by Monday, August 24th (note: Veritas Prep and teachers participating in induction or new staff orientation will return earlier). Accordingly, students in grades 1-12 will return on Tuesday, September 8, and students in Pre-K and Kindergarten will return on Monday, September 14. An updated calendar will be available by Friday, August 7.

Second, families will have the

opportunity to choose between in-person learning (hybrid for most, in-person for selected students who have high needs) and remote learning. On any given day, we expect to have about 50% of our students physically in person at school, at a distance of 6-feet apart, while the rest of our students learn remotely. Most classes will have 10-12 students with 1-2 adults.

Most students will participate in a hybrid model of learning, where cohorts of students attend school in-person on two congruent days (Mon/Tues or Thurs/Fri). Wednesdays will be reserved for deep cleaning of the schools and both synchronous (live) and self-paced learning. On the other two remote learning days, students will engage primarily in self-paced learning. HPS will provide a device and internet access as needed.

Select students will have the opportunity to attend school in-person five days a week. We will prioritize Level 1 and 2 English Learners and students with disabilities who have complex needs, defined as meeting at least two of the following criteria:

- Students who are identified as high needs students who spend approximately 75% of their school day outside of general education classrooms and with special education service providers.
- Students who cannot engage in remote learning due to their disability-related needs
- Students who primarily use aided and augmentative communication
- Students who are dually identified as English Learners

Families also have the opportunity to choose a remote learning only option (HPS Virtual Academy) for their child(ren). Once again, HPS will provide a device and internet access as needed.

The HPS Virtual Academy will utilize one of the learning management systems (LMS) selected by DESE. The LMS will be populated with full K-12 content and can be used by students to cover curricular standards. The HPS Virtual Academy will allow for self-paced study, as well as synchronous (live) learning with an HPS teacher for check-ins and instructional support.

Next week, we will send a survey to families to determine the learning model that they are most interested in for their child(ren): hybrid, in-person daily (if their child qualifies) or remote learning only. This survey is non-binding, but is instrumental to our schools’ planning efforts to prepare for students’ return. We urge all families to complete the survey. After we solicit input on our final return-to-school plan from the community and submit it to DESE, we will again survey families for their intent to commit to a specific learning model for the length of a term (trimester for grades PreK-5 and 6-7 at Veritas, quarter for all other grades 6-12).

We are continuing to solicit input and feedback, which will be used to develop our final plan to submit to DESE the week of August 10th. Consider joining us for one of the following sessions to learn more:

- Thursday, August 6, 5 p.m. (English), 5:45 p.m. (Spanish): Facebook Live
- Friday, August 7, 6 p.m. School Committee Meeting (accessible on our School Committee webpage and public access television)
- Monday, August 10, 9-10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting (will be sent a calendar invite with log-in details)
- Monday, August 10, 3-4:00 p.m. Community Partners (will be sent a cal-

endar invite with log-in details)

- Submit questions and suggestions on our Contact Us Form at: <https://www.hps.holyoke.ma.us/about-us/contact/>

Please also visit our return to school webpage for more information. Please note, information about the specific measures we will take to keep our students and staff safe, as well as a frequently asked questions document, will be available within the next two weeks.

The development of this plan is truly a team effort. I want to thank the following people for their commitment and engagement.

- The 17-member reopening leadership team (RLT) and the 60+ people on sub-committees who have read DESE guidance, responded to questions and developed plans for Holyoke.
- Principals, school staff members and the facilities team who conducted physical walk-throughs of every building.
- The parents/guardians of 2,600 students who completed the family survey.
- 657 staff members who completed the staff survey.
- All School Committee members for providing input at our July 20th meeting.
- Many students, staff, family members, and community members who have joined the Facebook Live meetings and School Committee meeting, as well as submitted written questions and suggestions.

We look forward to sharing more information and connecting with you over the next two weeks. We are committed to working with all stakeholders in the coming months to monitor public health data as it becomes available and modify our plans as required. The physical health, mental health and safety of our students and staff is our top priority.

STUDY, from page 1

The City of Holyoke, home to the highest concentration of Puerto Ricans outside of Puerto Rico, welcomed with open arms these individuals displaced by climate change and provided compassionate assistance. “Holyoke proudly supported displaced friends and family from Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria hit the Island, and it’s important to understand the ways in which that should be replicated or improved in future climate Catastrophes.” said Mayor Alex Morse.

To this point, the Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College of the University of New York and El Instituto:

The Institute of Latina/o, Caribbean and Latin American Studies of the University of Connecticut released a study of the City of Holyoke’s response to the influx of people displaced by Hurricane Maria. The report examined the needs for housing, medical, education, and social services displaced persons most of whom had lost everything. It also exhibits the effective coordination of services from the government and the social services sector, assisted by the local civic sector, and the willingness and readiness of its political leadership to respond forthrightly, which contributed to fulfilling to the extent possible under very trying circumstances the immediate demands those displaced individuals and families presented to Holyoke.

MALL, from page 1

Holyoke Mall continues to enforce sanitizing policies and procedures. All visitors to Holyoke Mall are reminded to follow our new Healthy Shopper Guidelines with Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations everyone must follow prior to entering the property.

Following CDC-recommended guidelines

Simple personal hygiene is essential to minimizing the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Holyoke Mall is

actively reminding and encouraging its employees, tenants and guests to follow CDC preventative measures as part of daily routines:

- Wash your hands
- Wear a mask
- Keep practicing social distancing
- Stay home if you’re sick

In addition, the PVRTA will also resume regular service to the bus stop at Yellow Entrance in between JCPenney and 110 Grill on August 3.

For more information on Holyoke Mall’s enhanced safety standards please visit <https://www.holyokemall.com/safety/>.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

CLASS OF 2020, from page 1

has this class had to endure the horrible dance moves of not one, not two, but three principals, and a year where stories of killer clowns ravaged America, it has had to push through one of the most trying times in any of our lives. Through a pandemic and time of social upheaval, the Class of 2020 has remained headstrong and hopeful, maintaining various communities and getting their jobs done at the same time.”

As the rain fell on the Class of 2020 many students said things like, “of course this would happen” and “what’s a little rain after the year we had.”

“As kids were accepting their diploma’s a few said to me, ‘of course it would rain during graduation, that’s 2020’ and it just reminded me of how strong this class is.” Mahoney said.

“It’s evident that the staff has tried it’s hardest to honor and celebrate the Class of 2020, as the graduation video will be available on YouTube after the fact.”

Though the rain interfered with the line of speeches, the students and staff able to speak congratulated the class on

the work they did to be standing at their graduation.

The North Campus Class President, Melina Garcia had thanks to give while she spoke of her class.

“I’m sorry our senior experience has been unusual to say the least. I mean, how many senior classes can say they’ve had three principals throughout their four years of high school. It’s been a bit unorthodox but despite it all, here we are. We did it! So I want to thank you all.”

Garcia said, “I’d also like to thank the staff and faculty for doing everything you could for us. Teaching, guiding and becoming a mentor to many of us when we needed it the most. Also for putting up with me when I started to bring a ukulele everywhere. And to my fellow peers, again thank you for also putting up with the ukulele. But seriously, thank you for rising above and beyond everything that was thrown at us. Thank you for being here today. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to familiarize and represent such a diverse, passionate, and resilient group of students.”

Additionally, the Dean Campus Class President Genesis Rodriguez, thanked specific staff for helping in her

journey and inspiring her.

“I have many memories of Dean, but guys remember the chaotic things we did in the shop and how the teachers always wanted to kill us? Or how about when Berger danced when Mr. Mario would sing Happy birthday to students? Lots of memories that we will remember as we move towards our unknown futures.” Rodriguez said. “As we head off in different directions, remember the future belongs to those who believe in their dream - so dream big and never lose sight of your goals.” The student speakers kept their speeches short, a few speaking about how Administration had requested them to do so but also because this day had been long awaited and everyone was ready to receive their diploma’s.

Although the speeches were cut short due to weather, both the North and Dean Campus Salutatorian’s prepared speeches for their peers. North campus’ Salutatorian Trish Haradon, and Dean campus’ Salutatorian Emanuel Salamance both had well-wishing for their class. “In this moment of recognition from you, I would like to give recognition to each and every one of you because a GPA is a minuscule part

of high school. I have seen you all work yourselves in the ground these past four years, powering through academic whilst juggling sports, several jobs, extracurriculars, and college classes, staying strong through the loss of loved ones and supporting friends with such love and comfort.” Haradon said. “The strength of our class is second to none and I am so proud to stand among you all today, victorious against the challenges put in our way.”

As the Dean Campus Salutatorian spoke about his personal struggles throughout the four years of high school, he thanked the teachers who helped him along.

“The first year of high school was difficult. I was not the student i was now or in middle school. I struggled. Sophomore year was interesting and fun. Junior year was the change for the better. Now Senior year. A long-awaited time for all who wish to get school over with and a new beginning for most.” Salamance said. “I worked long and hard to get where I am now. The people I met and those I knew were all by my side to get me here. Through change, through fear, and through global chaos I, no we, made it.”



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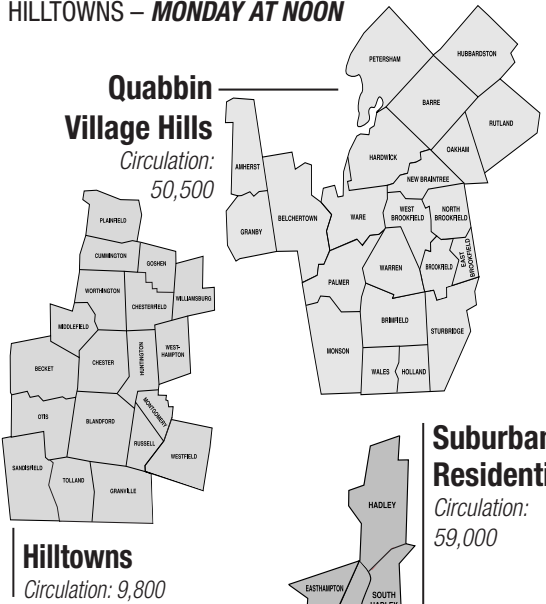
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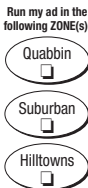
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# Governor issues new travel order for residents, visitors

BOSTON – Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker issued a new order mandating all travelers from coronavirus hot spots entering the commonwealth to fill out a Massachusetts travel form and quarantine for 14 days. The order took effect Saturday, Aug. 1.

All travelers entering the commonwealth will be required to comply with a new travel order unless they are coming from a low risk COVID-19 state or are able to produce a negative test result no more than 72 hours prior to their arrival in Massachusetts. Other exemptions include people passing through the state, those commuting across state lines for work, people traveling to Massachusetts for medical treatment, people complying with military orders, or those traveling to work in federally designated critical infrastructure sectors (essential services).

The travel order and other information is available at [www.mass.gov/MATraveler](http://www.mass.gov/MATraveler).

Individuals who get a test must remain in quarantine until they receive their negative test results. Failure to comply may result in a \$500 fine per day.

Based on current public health data, those lower risk states include New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Maine, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire and Hawaii. The list of lower risk states is subject to change based on public health data and states may be added or taken off the list at any time.

Prior to travel, people should visit [www.mass.gov/MATraveler](http://www.mass.gov/MATraveler) to fill out the “Massachusetts Travel Form” or text “MATraveler” to 888-777.

# Library re-opened with curbside pickup

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Public Library has re-opened with limited services. According to a newsletter from the library, it has been a difficult trial for us all especially during their 150th anniversary year. But that hasn’t stopped the library staff from getting back to work to give all patrons as much access to our materials as possible.

As Massachusetts continues to re-open with a phased-in approach, during this Phase the Holyoke Public Library employees are working on getting library materials into your hands with our Curbside Pick-Up Service.

We are also preparing for the next phases of reopening and getting our public service areas ready for walk-in transactions.

The library can’t wait to have you back, too. All of the staff, in every department, are busy working on moving activities online and making materials available for use at home.

Though the library building is closed, we are getting library materials into the hands of our patrons.

For Curbside Service Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Limit of 5 items per library card holder. Place holds online or with CWMARS App Call the Library with your list at 413-420-8101 Email your list to [library@holyoke.org](mailto:library@holyoke.org).

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# Public Notices

**Holyoke Water Works Invitation to Bid Water Storage Tank Painting Project**

Sealed bids for the con- struction of The Holyoke Water Works, Water Storage Painting Project will be received by Holyoke Water Works, 20 Commercial Street, Holyoke MA 01040 at **1:00 PM local time on 8/31/20**. At 2:00 PM local time on 8/31/20 the bids will be publicly open and read.

Documents are available electronically from the Tighe & Bond website at: [www.tighebond.com/Projects\\_Out\\_to\\_bid.php](http://www.tighebond.com/Projects_Out_to_bid.php).

**There is a mandatory pre-bid conference on 8/13/20 at 1:00 PM local time start- ing at 600 Westfield Road, Holyoke, MA.**

Holyoke Water Works reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids. 8/07/2020

Check us out on the web [www.sun.turley.com](http://www.sun.turley.com)

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3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

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The Sun OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

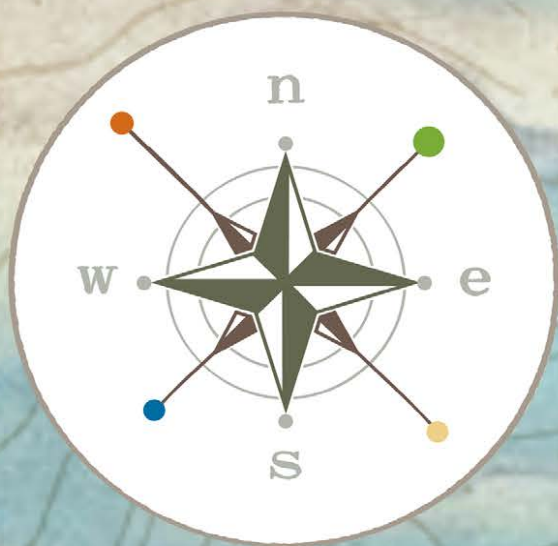
The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$120, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

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